

THOMAS G. GILMORE, ESQ.
State Bar No. 91984
LAW OFFICES OF THOMAS G. GILMORE
3232 FOURTH AVENUE
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92103
(619) 426-4444

Attorney for Material Witness

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

{Magistrate Jan M. Adler}

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	)	CASE NO. 07CR3405
	)	07MJ8976
Plaintiff,)	
)	
vs.	)	MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND
	)	AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF
	)	VIDEOTAPE DEPOSITION AND
Mario Raymond Fernandez (1),	)	SUBSEQUENT VOLUNTARY DEPORTATION
Ernesto Flores-Blanco (2),	)	OF MATERIAL WITNESSES
)	
	)	DATE: April 22, 2008
	)	TIME: 10:30 a.m.
	)	PLACE: Courtroom of Magistrate
Defendants.	)	Jan M. Adler

I

**BY STATUTE AND CASE LAW,
THE MOTION SHOULD BE GRANTED**

According to 18 U.S.C. 3144, "no material witness may be detained because of inability to comply with any condition of release if the testimony of such witness can be adequately secured by deposition and if further detention is not necessary to prevent a failure of justice".

Furthermore, Fed R. Crim P. 15(a) specifies that a material witness may make a motion requesting such a deposition and the district court has the authority to order the taking of the

1 deposition and thereafter to discharge the detained witness from
2 custody.

3 As the Fifth Circuit stated In Aguilar-Ayala v. Ruiz, 973 F.2d
4 411 (1992) at page 413:

5 Read together, Rule 15(a) and section 3144 provide a
6 detained witness with a mechanism for securing his own
7 release. He must file a "written motion", Fed. R. Crim.
8 P. 15(a), requesting that he be deposed. The motion must
9 demonstrate that his "testimony can adequately be secured
10 by deposition" and that "further detention is not necessary
11 to prevent a failure of justice" 18 U.S.C. section 3144.
12 Upon such showing, the district court must order his
13 deposition and prompt release. Id. ("No material witness
14 may be detained" if he makes such a showing). Although
15 Rule 15(a) is couched in the permissive "May" not the
16 mandatory "shall", Fed R. Crim. P. 15(a) ("the court...may
17 direct that the witness' deposition be taken"), it is
18 clear from a conjunctive reading with section 3144 that
19 the discretion to deny the motion is limited to those
20 instances in which the deposition would not serve as an
21 adequate substitute for the witness' live testimony: that
22 a "failure of justice" would ensue were the witness
23 released...absent a "failure of justice", the witness must
24 be released.

25 Any ambiguity in Rule 15(a) was resolved when the statute was
26 amended in 2002 to differentiate between motions for depositions
27 brought by other parties as opposed to such motions brought by the
28 material witness themselves. The new statutory language holds that
when a material witness files their own motion for a deposition,
they do not even need to show any "exceptional circumstances" exist.
The amended statute has already been upheld on appeal, United States
v. Chen (N.D. Cal. 2003) 214 F.R.D. 578.

29 This is also the law in the Ninth Circuit as demonstrated by
30 the case of Torres -Ruiz v. United States District Court for the
31 Southern District of California, 97 CDOS 5335 (July 7, 1997). The
32 court "agreed with the reasoning of [Aguilar-Ayala, supra]" and
33 reversed Judge Huff who had denied a motion for a deposition on

1 facts virtually identical to the instant action . As the court
2 stated:

3 In the instant case, two young men ages 19 and 22, have
4 apparently been randomly selected out of a group of 27
5 undocumented aliens and detained for a period of over 60
6 days as material witnesses in a straightforward and
7 uncomplicated alien smuggling prosecution. These young
8 men state without opposition by either party to this case
9 that they are the sole support for their respective
families in Mexico, and that every day they remain in
custody is a tremendous hardship on those family members.
(Kilpatrick Declaration at 2) Neither petitioner is able
to provide a surety for \$1000.00 bond. It is exactly
circumstances such as these for which section 3144 appears
to be designed.

Respectfully submitted,

LAW OFFICES OF THOMAS G. GILMORE

DATED: 4/3/08

By: /ss/ Thomas G. Gilmore
Thomas G. Gilmore, Esq.
Attorney for Material Witness